

II

# STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ANNUAL REPORTS

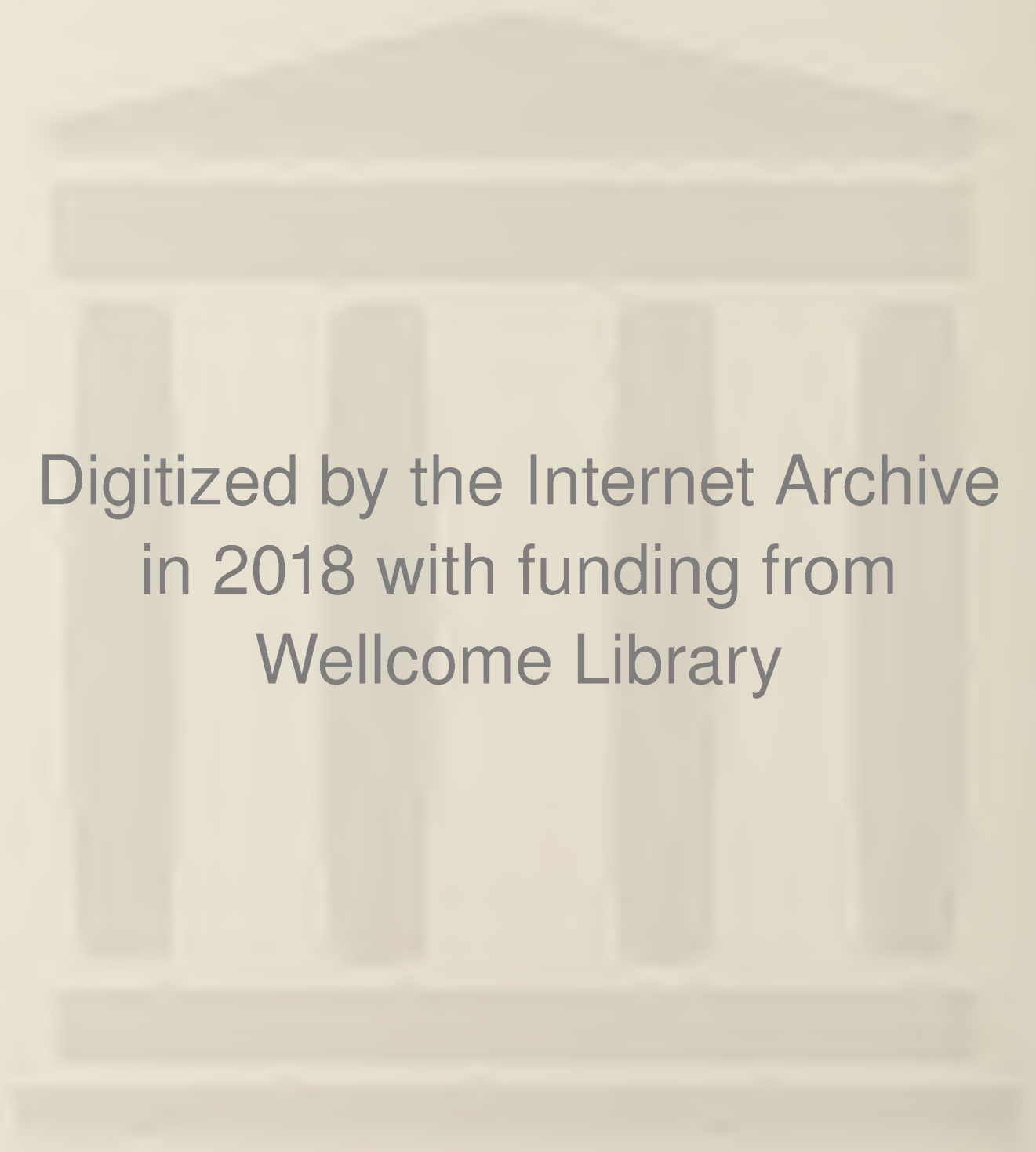
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1963



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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 1963

Medical Officer of Health and Divisional M.O.  
for North Herts. area:

V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Housing Officer:

R. V. LAMEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy:

A. E. Flintoff, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Offices:

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Tel: 50411

Chief Public Health Inspector:

10, High Street, Stevenage.

Tel: 436-7-8.



STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage  
Urban District Council.

I present the above report prepared in accordance with the directions of  
Ministry of Health Circular 1/64.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

|  |     |     |     |     |            |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Area (in acres)                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,895      |
| Home Population - Mid 1963             |     |     |     |     |            |
| (Registrar General's Estimate)         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50,270     |
| Number of habitable houses at 31.12.63 |     |     | ... | ... | 14,917     |
| Rateable Value at 31.12.63.            | ... | ... | ... | ... | £3,128,443 |
| Estimated product of a Penny Rate      |     |     |     |     | £13,095    |
| (1963/64)                              | ... | ... | ... | ... |            |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR  
THE YEAR 1963

|                                   | <u>STEVENAGE</u><br><u>URBAN</u><br><u>DISTRICT</u> |             |               |      | <u>Comparable</u><br><u>Rate for</u><br><u>England &amp;</u><br><u>Wales</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------|------|--|
| <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>                |   |             |               |      |  |
|                                   | <u>Totals</u>                                       | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |      |  |
| Legitimate                        | 1,303   | 655         | 648           |      |  |
| Illegitimate                      | 43  | 23          | 20            |      |  |
|                                   | <u>1,346</u>  | <u>678</u>  | <u>668</u>    |      |  |
| Rate per 1,000 population ...     | ...   | ...         | ...           | 26.8 | 18.2   |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent |   |             |               |      |  |
| of total live births              | ...   | ...         | ...           | 3.2% |  |

STEVENAGE  
URBAN  
DISTRICT

Comparable  
Rate for  
England &  
Wales

STILL BIRTHS

|              | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 26            | 12          | 14            |
| Illegitimate | 1             | 1           | -             |
|              | 27            | 13          | 14            |

Rate per 1,000 total

(live and still) births ... ..

19.7

17.3

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1,373        | 691         | 682           |

DEATHS

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 204          | 113         | 91            |

Rate per 1,000 population ... ..

4.1

12.2

INFANT DEATHS

|                | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Under 1 week   | 9            | 7           | 2             |
| At 1 - 4 weeks | 2            | 2           | -             |
| At 4 -52 weeks | 8            | 4           | 4             |
|                | 19           | 13          | 6             |



|  | <u>STEVENAGE</u><br><u>URBAN</u><br><u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>Comparable</u><br><u>Rate for</u><br><u>England &amp;</u><br><u>Wales</u> |
|--|---|--|
| <u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>                  |   |  |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000                  |   |  |
| total live births ... ..                       | 14.1  | 20.9   |
| Legitimate infant deaths per                   |   |  |
| 1,000 legitimate live births ...               | 13.0  |  |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per                 |   |  |
| 1,000 illegitimate live births ...             | 46.5  |  |
| <u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under  |   |  |
| 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ...       | 8.2   | 14.2   |
| <u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>          |   |  |
| (deaths under 1 week per 1,000                 |   |  |
| total live births) ... ..                      | 6.7   |  |
| <u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths   |   |  |
| and deaths under 1 week combined               |   |  |
| per 1,000 total live and still births)         | 26.2  |  |
| <u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion) |   |  |
| Number of deaths                               | One   |  |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births     | 0.73  | 0.28   |

#### Comment on Vital Statistics

The total of live births for the past year (1,346) gives a rate of 26.8 per 1,000, nearly one and a half times the national rate.

Though the stillbirth rate is less favourable the infant mortality rate is again seen to compare very favourably with the national rate. Of the 19 infant deaths under 1 year 11 occurred within 4 weeks from birth.

The local death rate for the year (4.1) against the national rate (12.2) again clearly indicates the low proportion of elderly residents in a new town; application of the supplied comparability factor of 2.41 gives a "standardised" death rate of 9.9.

The estimated mid-year population for 1963 of 50,270 gives an annual increase of 3,560 but continued inward migration again makes such a figure out of date.

Deaths from cancer (all sites) gives the favourable figure of 39, of which 13 (11 males and 2 females) were from cancer of lung or bronchus. Local deaths from motor vehicle accidents numbered 3 while all other accidents numbered 5 (2 males and 3 females).

There was no local death ascribed to any acute infectious disease and from tuberculosis (ne single (female) death was recorded.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1954 - 1963 :-

|      |     | <u>Birth Rate</u> | <u>Death Rate</u> | <u>Infant Mort. Rate</u> |
|------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1963 | ... | 26.8              | 4.1               | 14.1                     |
| 1962 | ... | 27.3              | 4.1               | 19.6                     |
| 1961 | ... | 25.9              | 4.6               | 25.7                     |
| 1960 | ... | 29.2              | 4.8               | 22.2                     |
| 1959 | ... | 29.2              | 5.0               | 15.8                     |
| 1958 | ... | 30.1              | 5.2               | 13.2                     |
| 1957 | ... | 31.1              | 5.3               | 18.4                     |
| 1956 | ... | 30.8              | 5.4               | 17.7                     |
| 1955 | ... | 28.4              | 6.0               | 11.6                     |
| 1954 | ... | 29.1              | 6.8               | 12.0                     |

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The local sanitary authority services were unchanged during the year.

## SECTIONS C to E

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA & INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year (after correction) numbered :- Measles - 543, Scarlet fever - 32, Food poisoning - 9, Dysentery - 6, Whooping cough - 5, Puerperal Pyrexia - 2, Infectious hepatitis - 2 and Meningococcal infection - 1.

Measles was epidemic in local schools during the Spring months. The Scarlet fever cases were scattered throughout the year both in time and district; roughly half were of pre-School age and the balance almost wholly of infant school age; cases were all of a mild nature with no reported complications. Two small outbreaks of dysentery (Bac. Sonne)



were confined and the single reported case of meningitis made a complete recovery.

Of the 9 notified cases of food poisoning two groups of three notified cases had the causative agent identified as staphylococcal toxin in one and Clost. Welchii in the other. The other three were single cases, separate in time and location, of Salmonella (Typhi-murium) infection. Particularly where there is risk of spread from food handling such cases receive extensive investigation for prevention of any spread of infection.

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

With no national alarms during the year efforts were directed to obtaining primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health.

### IMMUNISATION

The standard use of a TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus - continued to be urged in three separate injections between 6 and 18 months, with a fourth (booster) dose at the age of infant school entry. There is locally a high degree of parental acceptance.

Against poliomyelitis the routine exhibition to infants of three separate doses of SABIN vaccine by the mouth continued unchanged. With the near-disappearance nationally of reported cases there is a considerable percentage of missed appointments for second and third oral doses, possibly through parental forgetfulness since a vaccine dose by mouth is now so undramatic. It is expected that in future an extra (booster) dose of such anti-poliomyelitis oral vaccine will be offered to children and other contacts whenever and wherever a single case of the disease has been confirmed.

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1963

| Age<br>Periods | New Cases   |    |                 |   | Deaths      |   |                 |   |
|----------------|-------------|----|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
|                | Respiratory |    | Non-Respiratory |   | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   |
|                | M           | F  | M               | F | M           | F | M               | F |
| 0 - 1          | -           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 2 - 5          | -           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 5 - 15         | -           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 15 - 25        | 1           | 2  | -               | - | -           | 1 | -               | - |
| 25 - 35        | 3           | 7  | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 35 - 45        | 3           | 3  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 45 - 55        | 1           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 55 - 65        | 1           | 1  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 65 & over      | -           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| Not known      | -           | -  | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| TOTALS         | 9           | 13 | -               | 1 | -           | 1 | -               | - |

Comment :

New notifications of respiratory tuberculosis are not excessive, having regard to the preponderantly young adult group in the population, and to the detective activity of the local visits of the mass radiographic unit.

One death occurred during the year in the local population (in a young adult female).

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. V. Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of this report.

Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1964.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage  
Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending  
31st December, 1963.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The Lee Valley Water Company are the water undertakers for the area.

The water supply is regularly sampled by your officers, and during the year, I submitted 117 samples to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton for bacteriological examination - all proved satisfactory. 12 chemical samples taken by the Water Authority also proved satisfactory. In addition, sampling of raw water supplies is regularly undertaken by the Water Authority for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being maintained. Only five houses in the Urban District obtain their water from private wells.

SWIMMING POOL - On the 13th October, 1962, the Council opened their new Swimming Pool at St. George's Way. It comprises of a main pool 110 ft. long x 42 ft. wide and a training pool 42 ft. x 15 ft. The purification system includes a horizontal pressure filter, with sand and quartz media, through which the whole of the water passes every 4 hours. The capacity of the pool is approx. 220,000 gallons of water, which is heated and aerated during circulation, and chlorinated by the break point system.



Because of the heavy demand made on the training pool, improvements have been made to the chlorinating system in order to maintain an adequate residual of chlorine in this pool.

The Swimming Bath waters are regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis by my Department.

ii) Sewage Disposal

All main foul water drainage from the town is now dealt with at the Ryemead Sewage Works at Hertford. Few properties remain connected to cesspools or septic tank installations, and these will further decrease as extensions of the main sewerage systems take place.

iii) Refuse Collection

The Public Cleansing Services are controlled by the Council's Surveyor. No tipping is carried out in the town, all refuse being transported 11 miles to a tip at Cole Green, Welwyn Garden City.

The Council operates a Waste Paper and Trade Refuse Collection Service.

iv) Rodent Control

Details of Rodent Control work carried out during the year are as follows :-

|                                    |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total inspections                  | .... | .... | .... | 3,940 |
| No. of infested properties found   | .... |      |      | 628   |
| No. of infested properties treated | .... |      |      | 628   |
| Complaints received                | .... | .... | .... | 432   |

v) Open Air Market

The Council operate a Friday and Saturday Open Air Market in the New Town Centre. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls; fish, shell fish, ice cream and refreshments may be obtained from five mobile shops, which all satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Hot and cold water supplies, together with sinks, are provided for the washing of stallholders' equipment, and a new public convenience, with hot and cold washing facilities and hand drying equipment, is also available to stallholders.

The market is administered by the Public Health Department.

vi) Knackers Yard

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town. This is of model design and is maintained in a satisfactory condition. The premises are regularly inspected.

vii) Petroleum Installations

56 Licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year.

SECTION E

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

All food premises, which are, in the main, of modern construction satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the hygienic standards maintained by the staffs is generally good

Details of the food trades, including those contained in the Supermarkets, are as follows :-

|                                |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Bakehouses                     | ... | ... | 7  |
| Bakers                         | ... | ... | 18 |
| Butchers                       | ... | ... | 29 |
| Cafes                          | ... | ... | 16 |
| Canteens (including schools).. |     |     | 68 |
| Confectioners                  | ... | ... | 26 |
| Fishmongers                    | ... | ... | 10 |
| Greengrocers                   | ... | ... | 29 |
| Grocers                        | ... | ... | 42 |
| Guest Houses                   | ... | ... | 7  |
| Hotels                         | ... | ... | 4  |
| Licensed Premises              | ... | ... | 36 |

ii) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food & Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows :-

|                                |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Sale of Ice Cream              | ... | ... | 65 |
| Sale of Preserved<br>Food etc. | ... | ... | 32 |

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the town. Licences have been granted to 29 dealers and 2 distributors, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Regular visits were made to premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and the preparation or manufacture of sausages and other foods intended for sale. Those premises selling Ice Cream, but excluded from registration under the Food and Drugs Act, were also inspected.

iv) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouse, 2 tons 11 cwts. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town. All condemned food is stained with a naphthalene dye and removed from the food shops for disposal under supervision at the Council's tip; strict control is exercised over its disposal.

v) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

A regular check is made of the many Ice Cream vendors operating within the town. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in Stevenage.

vi) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year :-

|           |     | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> |
|-----------|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Milk      | ... | 172                 | --                    |
| Water     | ... | 117                 | --                    |
| Ice Cream | ... | 178                 | --                    |

vii) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

There is one private Slaughterhouse in the town, and 12 persons are licensed by the Council to act as Slaughtermen.

The number of animals slaughtered has fallen slightly during the year, as shown overleaf :-



|      |     |        |
|------|-----|--------|
| 1959 | ... | 15,648 |
| 1960 | ... | 18,051 |
| 1961 | ... | 21,257 |
| 1962 | ... | 23,058 |
| 1963 | ... | 22,647 |

It will be noted, however, that there has again been a significant increase in the number of cattle slaughtered - 2,146 this year, as against 1,849 for 1962.

Details of the numbers of the different types of animals slaughtered over the last five years will perhaps more clearly indicate the volume of work and the considerable amount of time spent in maintaining 100% meat inspection, and much of this work still has to be performed after normal office hours and on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Council has repeatedly made approaches, through their local authority organisations, for statutory powers to be provided to enable local authorities to control the hours of slaughter.

I am pleased to report, however, that notwithstanding these difficulties, a 100% meat inspection service has still been maintained for this, the tenth year.

|      | Cattle | Calves | Sheep  | Pigs  |
|------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1959 | 606    | 109    | 12,730 | 2,203 |
| 1960 | 1,286  | 268    | 13,769 | 2,728 |
| 1961 | 1,571  | 478    | 17,528 | 1,680 |
| 1962 | 1,849  | 251    | 19,177 | 1,781 |
| 1963 | 2,146  | 401    | 17,823 | 2,277 |

During the year over 6 tons of meat and offal were condemned at the Slaughterhouse.

Details of the carcasses inspected and condemned during 1963 are given on the table overleaf.

General

I should like to say how much I appreciate the co-operation I have received from my fellow chief officers, and also give special thanks to my own staff for their loyal service and valuable assistance.

Your obedient Servant,

R. V. LAMEY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June 1964.



vii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection (Cont'd)MEAT INSPECTIONCarcases Inspected and Condemned

|   | Cattle<br>including<br>Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| <u>NUMBER KILLED</u>  | 2,146                       | 401    | 17,823                | 2,277 | Nil    |
| <u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>   | 2,146                       | 401    | 17,823                | 2,277 | Nil    |
| <u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT<br/>TUBERCULOSIS &amp; CYSTICERCI</u><br><u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>    | 1                           | 1      | 4                     | 1     | Nil    |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned   | 433                         | Nil    | 3,055                 | 778   | Nil    |
| Percentage of the number inspected<br>affected with disease other than<br>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci | 20                          | .25    | 17.2                  | 34.2  | Nil    |
| <u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u><br><u>Whole carcasses condemned</u>  | Nil                         | Nil    | Nil                   | Nil   | Nil    |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned   | 1                           | Nil    | Nil                   | 40    | Nil    |
| Percentage of the number inspected<br>affected with Tuberculosis                                    | .05                         | Nil    | Nil                   | 1.8   | Nil    |
| <u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u><br>Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned                       | 5                           | Nil    | Nil                   | Nil   | Nil    |
| Carcases submitted to treatment<br>by refrigeration   | 2                           | Nil    | Nil                   | Nil   | Nil    |
| Generalised and totally condemned   | Nil                         | Nil    | Nil                   | Nil   | Nil    |



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN  
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1963 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF  
STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(PART 1)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises  | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of        |                    |                         |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|   |                          | Inspect-<br>ions | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
| (1) Factories in which Section<br>1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be<br>enforced by Local Authorities                       | 8                        | 21               | -                  | -                       |
| (2) Factories not included in<br>(1) above in which Section 7<br>is enforced by the Local<br>Authority            | 77                       | 18               | -                  | -                       |
| (3) Other Premises in which<br>Section 7 is enforced by the<br>Local Authority (excluding<br>outworkers premises) | 40                       | 152              | 2                  | -                       |
| Total   | 125                      | 191              | 2                  | -                       |



Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars   | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                            | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
|   | Found                                       | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | Referred By H.M. Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1.)  | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Overcrowding (S.2.)   | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)   | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)   | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)                                       | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)  | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| (a) Insufficient  | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective   | 7   | 7        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes  | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | -   | -        | -                 | -                          | -   |
| Total   | 7   | 7        | -                 | -                          | -   |

PART VIII OF THE ACT  
OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature of Work              | Section 110  |   |   | Section 111                                      |                |              |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
|                             | No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing apparel making etc. | 13   | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |
| Leather Goods               | 3  | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |
| Total                       | 16   | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |







